

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 02740 190852Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 H-01 /066 W
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R 171200Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9638
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CT, US
SUBJ: "INVITATION" TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO VISIT CAE

1. ACCORDING TO CAE RWDIO, PRIME MINISTER PATASSE TOLD ASSEMBLED CAE AMBASSADORS DECEMBER 15 THAT HE WAS "READY TO RECEIVE" A DELEGATION OF MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE "BADLY INFORMED OF OUR REALITY," PATASSE SAID. THEY SHOULD SEE FOR THEMSELVES. HE WAS CONVINCED THEIR STAY WOULD PERMIT THEM TO LEARN THE TRUTH AND WOULD REINFORCE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE CAE.

2. PATASSE'S "INVITATION" CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF A TOAST TO CAE AMBASSADORS, WHO HAD RETURNED TO BANGUI FOR THE CORONATION. PATASSE BEGAN BY SAYING THE CAE HAD SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OFF THE CORONATION, THEREBY DEFYING THE WORLD AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE WHO HAD TRIED TO DISSUADE THE CAE FROM THAT COURSE. AFTER OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE EMPIRE, HE ASKED THE AMBASSADORS WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THEIR POSTS TO ASSURE POTENTIAL INVESTORS THAT THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEED THE RIGHT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE REPATRIATION OF PROFITS. HE THEN MADE STATEMENTS ADDRESSED TO INDIVIDUAL AMBASSADORS, BEGINNING WITH THE "INVITATION" AND CONTINUING WITH MESSAGES OF THANKS
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TO BE CONVEYED BY THE AMBASSADORS TO FRANCE, CAMEROON AND GABON.

COMMENT: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOCAE'S DESIRE TO PROMOTE A CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO BANGUI IS UNDOUBTEDLY AN OUTGROWTH OF CONVERSATIONS WITH BOKASSA IN SEPTEMBER WHEN WE INDICATED TO HIM THAT ONE OF THE ELEMENTS IN OUR DECISION TO SUSPEND NEW AID PROJECTS WAS CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS

SITUATION IN THE CAE. BOKASSA IS NOW CASTING ABOUT FOR WAYS
TO OVERCOME HIS NEGATIVE IMAGE IN THE U.S. IT IS, OF COURSE,
BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT A CODEL VISIT WOULD DO THE TRICK. WE
ASSUME THAT AMBASSADOR MAIDOU ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON
NEXT WEEK WILL HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO TRY TO PROMOTE A CONGRESSIONAL
VISIT. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT
CAN OBTAIN FROM MAIDOU ABOUT HIS INTENTIONS SINCE WE HAVE NOT
HAD ANY CONTACT WITH HIM DURING HIS CURRENT STAY IN BANGUI.
QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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